

# Highlights of February Meeting



SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WOODIES GROUP INC.

## Woodchips

Today's meeting was an interesting one again. During morning practice our youngest member was busily turning a shallow bowl when he thought to try it out as a flying saucer. A loud bang was heard and suddenly we were collecting segments to make up a picture puzzle bowl. Shortly thereafter while a recently joined member was cutting on the band saw a snap was heard and a group commenced "re banding" our band saw.

Happy turning and socializing continued until "feeding frenzy" time, Bunnings left overs provided lunch to day.

John Powell started the meeting with ordinary business and handed over to Bill Shean. A challenge was put out by Bill for more reports like that magnificent piece of prose by Max Donato, airing his hidden talent. A superbly written account of events! We all have these occasions therefore mail your stories to our editor.

Bill Shean demonstrated tool sharpen-

ing highlighting the importance of a good finger nail profile. First he ground an even surface onto the flute side of the cutting edge then he ground the bevel using the ground shape as a guide until a sharp edge was achieved. Some volunteers had "a go" at sharpening.

John Harris followed on demonstrating how to finish the sharpening process by honing. John used his low cost home made set up containing two felt wheels. John applied some Ferro Rouge to the wheel then bevel honed the gouge onto the wheel spinning away from the cutting edge at around 1600 rpm until a shiny bevel was evident.

John Rossiter had the pleasure to conduct show and tell. John Powell announced that a max. of three items per person would be commented on. A loud outburst and some discrete dismay fol-

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### What's Happening

- 4 April Black & White Sheep – Robertson Demo and sales.
- 18 April Note change from 25th  
Deep Hollowing with Larry and Mo
- 23 May Jack Butler, Peninsula Region
- 19–21 June Sydney Working With Wood Show
- 18 July Third Saturday, not 4th. Richard Raffan.
- 12–14 September Down Under Turnaround, Phillip Island
- May Meeting Last Show & Tell for inclusion in 2009 Excellence Award



2008 Excellence Award, J Harris

## President's Report

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Our February meeting was on sharpening of tools. Bill Shean did an excellent job with the able assistance of John Harris. With the questions asked and the assistance given it was a very informative session.

The President's Challenge was a gavel, and John Rossiter hosted the Show and Tell. John did his usual excellent job and it was amazing to see the many different versions of a gavel.

Once again the three days of the Moss Vale Show are behind us. Each year we feel it was more successful than the last. Bill Shean had the school children mesmerized with his pyrography during their visits on the Friday, and there was plenty of interest in the general turning throughout the show. People are get-

ting to know us and make a point of checking us out each year.

Many thanks to the willing helpers, for the setting up and packing up of the display, the manning of the stand, and for keeping the lathes running hot. We had a lot of fun and everyone is to be congratulated.



Our next outside event is the Black and Coloured Sheep Association's Woolfest to be held at the Robertson Memorial Hall on Sat, 4<sup>th</sup> April. Volunteers are needed to man and turn. This was a really good day last year, so why not come along and enjoy the day. The roster will be at the back of the hall.

Keep the chips flying, John.

## Treasurer's Report

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Treasurer's report on the month of February, 2009.

The BBQ at Bunnings on 15 February was a moderate success with some disadvantage from the weather and our impression that the Sunday turnout of shoppers was probably less than on Saturdays. We took \$660 and this provided a clear profit of \$274.84.

With the BBQ profits transferred to our Equipment Fund and with further levies received this month, the fund rose to \$921.54. We are still rounding up

a few late paying stragglers for the Equipment Fund.

Because our Saturday activity fell on 28 Feb, the banking (and therefore our accounts for the day) had to go into March. As it stood, we had a balance of \$2,668.02 at the end of February.

To facilitate the printing of Wood Chips, we purchased a beaut new laser printer for \$278.19 having worn out Bill Shean's own printer over the years. You can see the benefits of the new machine in the quality, not to mention the colour in the recent Wood Chips. Thanks for your efforts, Bill.

## Rep's Report

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There was no Guild meeting in February. So there is no Representative's report. The next meeting is Monday 30 March.

From pl

lowed .!!

It was pleasing to see such a large number of fine exhibits . The requested home work of " a gavel and sounding block " was present in large numbers and some very fine work evident . Ken Sullivan displayed a very finely made Jarrah table without any turnings .

John closed the meeting by first giving our thanks to Judy Powell for her well known and much appreciated cakes and slices . The Cooks also received a mention of thanks .

**Show & Tell - February Meeting by John Rossiter**



**Peter Herbert:** burl bowl, unknown timber. Myrtle potpourri bowl with rosewood insert.

**John Rossiter:** Jarrah gavel



**Byron Grant:** Gavel, unknown timber

**Graeme Webb:** Lidded bowl in hardwood, Gavel & Striker unknown, and Lidded bowl in Huon & Rosewood



**Col Martin:** Gavel—apricot & camphor, banksia & maple,

apricot & cedar

Lightning Ridge timber



**Bob Miller:** cypress, silver, wattle & red gum

magnolia & cypress

**Fred R:** Unknown timber

Jarrah & recycled cypress



**Ron South:** Caterpillar tractor, gavel in camphor

**Peter Gerlach:** Casuarina & PNG Rosewood

**John Crisp:** Segmentd lidded bowl in camphor



**John Crisp:** Lidded bowl in buddha, gavel & striker in blackwood

**Max Donato:** Tas Blackwood

**John Harris:** Bangles in Aust Cedar



## Show & Tell .....cont



**Bill Shean:** Collibah burl,



**Pink Gidgee**



**Huon pine and casuarina**



**Fred S:** Serving bowl in banksia



**Fred S:** Lamp in Sally Wattle



**Gavel/block in Wattle, Cotoneastar & Kwila**



**Lidded bowl in Silky oak**



**Ken Sullivan:** Hand gavels in plum & dillineo



**Table in jarrah**



### Stimulus Payment Information.

"This year, taxpayers will receive an Economic Stimulus Payment. This is a very exciting new program that I will explain using the Q and A format:

Q. What is an Economic Stimulus Payment?

A. It is money that the federal government will send to taxpayers.

Q. Where will the government get this money?

A. From taxpayers.

Q. So the government is giving me back my own money?

A. Only a smidgin.

Q. What is the purpose of this payment?

A. The plan is that you will use the money to purchase a high-definition TV set or some such thing, thus stimulating the economy.

Q. But isn't that stimulating the economy of China ?

A. Shut up.

Below is some helpful advice on how to best help the Australian economy by spending your stimulus cheque wisely:

If you spend that money at Kmart, all the money will go to China .

If you spend it on petrol it will go to the Arabs.

If you purchase a computer it will go to India .

If you buy a car it will go to Japan .

If you purchase useless crap it will go to Taiwan .

And none of it will help the Australian economy.

We need to keep that money here in Australia. You can keep the money in Australia by spending it at garage sales, going to a cricket match or footy game, or spend it on prostitutes, beer and wine (domestic ONLY), or tattoos.

Thank you all Australians, Your mate,

K.RUDD.

## John Page & Excellence Awards

**John Page Awards** for February were:

**Freddie Robjent:** 1 nomination

**Sam McGrath:** 1 Nomination

**Peter Gerlach:** 2 nominations

**John Harris:** 1 nomination

**Excellence Award Nominations** for February were:

**Graeme Webb:** Leather wrapped gavel and striker, timber unknown

**Bill Shean:** Gavel and striker in pink gidgee

**Max Donato:** Gavel and striker in blackwood and brass

**John Crisp:** Gavel and striker in blackwood

This is being held at the Radisson Hotel on the Gold Coast the weekend of 28/29 March. This will be the 5th Turnfest I've attended and the professional line up suggests that it will be as good as the first 4.

Professional turners are the work they are presenting are:

**Bonnie Klein, USA:** Spinning top box, acrylic threaded box and turning bone.

**Cindy Drozda, USA:** Finial box, finial star box and triangular box.

**Brian McEvoy, Canada:** Deep hollowing using large boring bar, 2-piece hollow form, surface enhancement.

**Robbie Graham, NZ:** Multi-axis turning, twisted lidded box.

**Brendan Stemp, VIC:** Multi-axis turning

**Ken Wraight, VIC:** Vase, weed pot, candle stick.

**Liz Scobie, NSW:** Decorating your work.

**Neil Scobie, NSW:** Making a lidded doughnut, cutting and reassembling a bowl, make a suspended form.

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## A Woodtuning Woodie in Twenty Quick Question

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### **Woodturner in question...Max Donato**

#### **Place of birth?**

I see, the hard questions first! I was born in Brisbane on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November a long time ago. That makes me a full-blown Scorpio.

#### **Now residing?**

In Bowral with my wife Jane.

#### **Occupation now or in previous life?**

I was mainly involved with Marine Engineering. Electrical power supplies and its associations. My Diploma reads for Electrical Systems. Also there is a Draftsman's Certificate in there somewhere. On leaving School I had several non-descript jobs before joining the RAN. I stayed with the Navy for twenty years and then joined the Defence Department (Navy) for another twenty odd years. When I "retired" I contracted to Navy as a Technical Author writing really exciting manuals on electrical cables for ships and for electrical fit-outs for dockyard refits. I also found some time in there to establish a small Poll-Dorset sheep stud.

#### **Interest in turning began when/how?**

Circa 1995. The local TAFE in Canberra ran an Introduction to Woodturning course conducted by John

Featherstone, a local turner. Two hours a week for six weeks. First night, first dig-in. Still getting over it.

#### **Have you had any turning tuition?**

Only as above with John, and what I glean at the Saturday afternoon meeting each month.

#### **Do you have a workshop or area as such?**

I divided a two-car garage in half with a wall down the center. Workbench and tools on one side, beloved's car the other and my car outside in the rain, hail and sleet.

#### **Do you have a lathe?**

Yep. The ubiquitous MC900. Mine is branded Sherwood. I settled on it for three reasons.

1; the price,

2; the ability to swivel the headstock for large jobbies and

3; because at that time I didn't know one lathe from another.

#### **What other machinery do you have?**

A band saw, a sanding machine, a pedestal drill, a

## A Woodtuning Woodie in Twenty Quick Question .....cont

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compound mitre saw and several other of the small hand held type.

### **Preferred turning tool?**

I like the scrapers. I find them more forgiving than some of the other tools. I have a large, flat, square scraper that has had the left corner rounded and it is brilliant for bowls and the bottom and sides of boxes.

### **Favourite turning timber?**

Probably Tassie Blackwood.

### **Preferred Finish?**

Oil. Danish or Scandinavian.

### **Has your turning been influenced by anything/body?**

Everything and everybody. I believe that you can never NOT learn anything, and so if I am impressed by something someone has done or does, I try to take a little of that something with me.

### **Do you have a preference in turning i.e. bowls spindle etc.?**

I am not into spindle turning. I much prefer the bowls and platters and I do like the job satisfaction I get from a successful deep hollow turning.

### **Do you have a favourite piece that you have made?**

I made an old American Wild-West "Iron-Horse" train engine last year that I'm quite pleased with. There is also a Grandmother clock and a few turnings that I feel are nice to gaze upon.

### **What has been your most difficult/intricate/failed piece?**

I have made several attempts at a soccer ball, which has left me frustrated and beseeching the

Almighty to take pity and intervene. I have also made some yo-yos that just sit on the end of the string and sneer.

### **Is there any particular aspect of your turning you would like to improve?**

A source of fresh ideas. I find you can only make so many bowls and platters. They then become a wee bit boring. I like to come up with something different. Unfortunately the creative side of the brain requires constant jogging

### **Is there any particular project that you wish to accomplish at some time?**

I have for some time had a thought to turn a Pie-crust table however my workshop is a bit small and cramped for a project that size.

### **What do you like and/or dislike about woodturning?**

I like turning a lump of firewood into something nice and perhaps useful. I dislike wood shavings in the navel.

### **Is there a particular benefit you feel you have gained from the craft?**

I would like to say 'patience' but I think that is not true. In fact I would say it is a lot not true. Perseverance is probably better.

### **Do you have any other interests apart from woodturning?**

Not really. I used to be a mad keen hockey player/coach for many years before my heart and the rest of my body said enough is enough and I replaced the hockey stick with a scraper. I enjoy watching cricket. Especially the new 20-20 version.

## **Richard Raffan - July 18th**

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Richard Raffan will once again this year be our professional guest.

Cost will be \$25 per head, including lunch. We also have the opportunity of hosting a workshop day

with Richard here on Tuesday 21 July. We can take 10 turners at a cost of \$80 for the day.

A booking sheet will be out next month and we will need a 50% deposit at the time of booking.



## Moss Vale Show, 13-15 March

We had a good roll up by both members and the public for this year's Moss Vale Show.

We picked up a 2nd and 3rd in the Woodturning section and I think Peter H scored in the over 70s group.

As you can see from the photos, we had a number of members showing their talents. Mine was to sit there and look complacent.

We managed to sell around \$1,200 worth of our work which enables the purchase of that special tool we just had to have.



The kid had a great day on Friday and we even had a parnt come back in the afternoon and thank us for

giving the kids such a great time.

Young Sam got into the act with his first ever public demonstration. WELL DONE, really well done Sam!!!!

Part of our display at right.



## Crispies Korner—Tips & Jigs

### Tool Post Collars

A tool rest collar is a circle of metal that surrounds your toolrest and which can be fastened by a grub screw, see photo, to remain at a set height. Moving the tool rest, removing it to sand etc, means that when re-inserted or locked, it always does so at the same height. Saving lots of time, and frustration, from constant refixing.



Some of the applications are as follows:

### Pen Turning Tool Rest

Maintaining height of rest to turn pens etc remove to sand and polish then put back o turn next item. Particularly useful where high volumes are involved.



### Drilling Tool

Here you use you indexing set up to drill horizontal holes in what ever item you choose, eg Xmas decorations. The jig allows for any size drill and the collar ensures that as you reposition the drill so that it enters the wood at 90degrees, it is always at the right height.

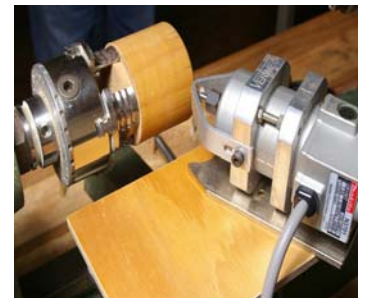


### Router Table

Using a router to embellish a turned piece is a well used method.

With a collar around the tool-post section of the router table, see below, you can always keep the router at he same height.

**PS:** I can make any height, any diameter to suit your lathe.





### **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WOODIES GROUP INC.**

#### **Meetings:**

4th Sat each month, 10.00am –  
4.30pm

Every Friday, 9.30am-12.30pm

**President:** John Powell , 48 712 714

**Vice-Pres:** Peter Herbert, 48 894 009

**Secretary:** John Harris, 62 582 701

**Treasurer:** Ian Pye, 48 623 750

**Guild Rep:** Fred Schffarczyk, 48 894 316

**Mail : PO Box 336  
Mittagong NSW 2575**

**We're on the web**

**Sydneywoodturners.com.au**

### **Old Editions of Woodchips.**

Did you know that our Woodchips can be found in full colour on the Guild's website.

From May 2006 to current date. Check it out.

### **Equipment**

We now have a 'dremel' kit and a pyrography machine. Both available for borrowing.

Cost is that you add something to one of the kits, eg a burr or sanding mandrel, or something.

### **Club Shirts, Jumpers, Jackets**

See John Harris. You can have logo made which you sew onto your own shirt, or he can organize a shirt or jacket or jumper.

### **Library**

Check it out.

Book, videos and DVDs.

Small fee for a month's viewing.

### **Presidents Challenge 2009**

**January:** Plate or platter

**February:** Gavel

**March:** Inlay, colour, texture

**April:** Trembleur, hollow form

**May:** Lidded bowl

**June:** Sphere or scoop

**July:** Letter opener, knife

**August:** Lamp, candlestick

**September:** Segmented work

**October:** Goblets

**November:** Pens

**December:** Christmas Ornaments

These are the projects for the theme of Show & Tell for each of the 2009 meetings. This should also produce a range of items in the Excellence Award.

## **Turnfest Preview .... cont**

Terry Martin, QLD: Back to basics

Glenn Roberts, NSW: Surface texturing using various techniques.

Theo Haralampou. NZ: Cube work balls and bowls, tips and techniques, trophy making and design.

Lois Green, VIC: Construct a segmented block and turn a segmented piece, scarf ring and pendant.

It is not possible to see all the demonstrations so I will be selecting those demo's that I think I will benefit from the most and take as many photos as I can. Next month I will follow up on this article with a description of Turnfest and some photos. PFH.

### **Excellence Award for 2009**

The Excellence Award for 2009 will be based on the items presented at the July 2008 to May 2009 meetings. All items nominated by the Committee for inclusion in the competition will be asked to be returned to the June meeting.

At the June meeting, all members present will be able to vote on their preferred piece. The voting system has been changed and each member will be allowed 3 votes..

The winner of the 2009 Excellence Award will be announced at the opening of our 'Treasures in Timber' exhibition in the Moss Vale Council Chambers in late July. All items from the Excellence Award will displayed plus others.